

DIGITAL MEDIA NETWORK CONTROL MESSAGING

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A control messaging structure for a multi-zone entertainment and communications network and control method therefor. The network is a digital peer-to-peer network distributing data that is being streamed from multiple independent entertainment and communications media sources to multiple independent receivers and/or transceivers. The receivers and transceivers may be located in different zones from each other. The zones may be individual rooms of a building or house. The control messaging structure is a peer-to-peer communication protocol structure. Feature cards or remote devices are connected to peer nodes, which are controlled by control data passed between the nodes on the network over a control bus using the control messaging structure. Likewise, information is shared over the control bus between devices connected to network nodes using the control messaging structure of the present invention.